## Draft 7/8/11

Triangle Lake Questions and Answers

**Summary**
A community advocacy group in the Hwy. 36/ Lane County area, the Pitchfork Rebellion, is concerned about the effect of herbicide applications in the area.

The Oregon Department of Forestry, which regulates forest practices, asked the Pesticide Analytic and Response Center (PARC) to assist with the response to community members who have concerns about the potential health impacts of exposure to pesticides.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), acting as co-chair of Pesticide Analytic Response Center (PARC) will lead a human exposure investigation in Triangle Lake/Blachly/Hwy. 36 area of western Lane County.

**What steps are being taking to address the health concerns of the community?**
The Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division through its Office of Environmental Public Health Research and Education Services is working with state and federal partners to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy evaluating routes of possible exposure in order to evaluate the risks to local residents from herbicide applications made in the areas around Hwy. 36. Public health will work with ODF, Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and other agencies to test drinking water, food products and urine samples from residents in and out of the area.

**When?**
Agencies hope is to begin the implementation of the plan sometime in August.

**Why is Oregon Public Health qualified to be doing this?**
We have epidemiologists, toxicologists, health physicians, and industrial hygienists on staff. Public Health works to assist Oregonians in the pursuit of healthy and safe lives.

**We had our urine tested by Dana Barr. Can't you just use those results?**
We would include them in our overall analysis of this issue. However, to date, the test results of Dr. Barr's analyses have not been released to PARC.
However, we need to conduct our own scientific lab tests for consistency.

**Who is paying for all of this?**
A combination of federal and state resources are being used to respond to the concerns of this community.

**Why didn't you do this sooner?**
PARC was asked to take examine the health aspects of this issue.

**Whose wells will be tested? Can I get my well tested?**
**NEED help on this one.**

**What pesticides will be included in your testing?**
In the water, thanks to the Oregon Public Health Drinking Water program, we are able to test for an array of chemicals. We hope to have the list of what chemicals have been used and be able to test for those.
In urine samples we will test for imazapyr, atrazine and 2,4-D.

## What will all these tests do for us?

Through this study the Public Health Division will be able to tell if there has been human exposure and help people learn about safe levels for any exposure.

## Do you know if the pesticide residues come from the nearby forestlands?

There are many instances when herbicides might be used in the area, including treatment of weeds in road right-of-way or around buildings, vehicle emissions from traffic on Hwy. 36, possibly herbicide application on forestland, even potential run-off from use of cleaners from recreational vehicles using Triangle Lake, for instance. Constructing a science-based study is vital for figuring out how herbicides may or may not be causing any potential human exposure.

## What about the timber industry practices? Can you make them change? Will these companies be affected economically?

It is very early in this study to conclude the exposure was based on forest activities. The Oregon Department of Forestry enforces protection of natural resources through the Forest Practices Act, which establishes rules – in addition to federal EPA label requirements - requiring buffers around waterways. It is the state's policy to respect an individual forest landowner's approach to manage their land so long as state and federal standards are followed. It's important to note that forest industry use of herbicides is about 4 percent of overall herbicide use in Oregon.

## Why do herbicides need to be used in the forest?

Part of Oregon's forest management laws that require replanting after timber harvest also require that tree seedlings have a chance to reach a healthy state called 'free to grow' during the first six years, where the tree can compete against weeds and other competing plant growth. Oregon supports an integrated pest management approach where landowners are encouraged to use many different means to control vegetation, including hand-pulling vegetation, controlled safe use of fire and herbicide use. Different approaches work for many different landowners in meeting their land management needs. When herbicides are used, there are generally a few applications during the first few

years a tree is in the ground, then likely no other treatments will be needed until the timber is harvested 30-50 years later when the replanting cycle begins again.

**If I am part of this study will my results be kept private?**
Yes. Health information is kept private. The results will not be attached to your private information. We will provide participants their results.

**If you find results of pesticides how will you know where the pesticide is from?**
We may not know exactly where the pesticide is from. We may know, however, depending on time of use, and kind of pesticide.

**What do you know about the long-term effects of these pesticides?**
Our results should help us know the levels of – if any – of pesticides that may exist in this community. Using the best science we hope to be able to answer that question.

**A pesticide was found in the school's drinking water from testing done by USDA. What does this mean for the school children?**
Here is what we know:

1. The pesticide imazapyr was detected in the school's drinking water at a concentration of 48 parts per trillion (ppt). By way of comparison to the concentrations detected in your water, food products in the US are allowed to contain the following levels of imazapyr: Meats, fats, dairy products - 50,000 ppt; Edible shellfish meat - 100,00; Edible finfish meat - 1,000,000 ppt.

2. The US Environmental Protection agency and Health Canada have agreed that a child weighing 22 pounds could safely drink 136,000 gallons per day of water with the levels of imazapyr that were found in the school's water.

**History/Timeline:**

In 2008 and 2009 this group took their concerns to PARC. In 2010 the group submitted a petition to EPA and EPA asked ATSDR to investigate.

In Nov., 2010, the ASTDR concluded: 1) the fact that that no violations of ODA pesticide regulations were noted in ODA investigation/PARC case files; 2) that there was insufficient evidence in ODA investigations/PARC case files with which to draw conclusions on health-related incidents; 3) that symptoms in PARC cases were consistent with exposure, 4) that pesticide applications associated with PARC cases were consistent with drift exposures; and that 5) that bio-monitoring of area residents should take place.

In the past year, this group worked with a researcher at Emory University to conduct a small study that involved urine analysis of residents in the Highway 36 area. Results of this analysis have only been made on an individual basis to community residents in recent weeks. The Pitchfork Rebellion presented some of the results to the ODF last week. Oregon Public Health does not have enough information about the study and the results to be able to interpret what they might mean in terms of health risks.

#####